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Spring 2021

## LIT 355-004: Poetry

Jonathan Curley

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# POETRY (IN PERSPECTIVE, >>>>> IN PRACTICE)

T/R 12:30-1:50  
TIERNAN 106

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Office Hours Tuesdays 4-6 and by appointment

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## Course Description

This course is an Investment in your Imagination. It is also a referendum on your Rationality. Poetry is both the most ancient literary art internationally but it is also ever the innovator of creative practice: it is simultaneously old school, new wave, and future vision. We will embark on an exploration of poetry by reading it, studying it, and practicing it. The structure of this course is a workshop, an environment in which to express and experiment, to engage words, sounds, and performance in vital, diverse ways.

No experience or previously acquired skill are required: poets are not born, poets progress. Even if you never again engage the form, I guarantee that you will read more deeply and be able to conceptualize your world more dynamically. You are welcome to join the tribe—even if only for a semester.

I am a Poet as well as a Professor; I profess poetry but am no self-satisfied master of the form. I am a fellow lyrical technician and look forward to learning from you as well. The late legendary Amiri Baraka was a world-famous Poet operating out of Newark, New Jersey, and also a mentor to me. We shall engage his legacy and spirit, along with other master Poets and Lyricists from various historical periods and across styles and structures.

## Requirements

You are expected to keep up with the assigned reading (either shared on our course page or shared via online links) and complete all assigned exercises. Classroom/virtual participation is essential. The format for this course requires discussion, a constellation of active, energetic voices. Participation can also take the shape of various other engagements, including CANVAS forum posts, written commentaries or suggestions, and other input not assigned.

I will ask that you bring responses to particular texts and poems under consideration each week and compile a weekly writing journal based on your writing experience, reactions, and any other thoughts related to this course. You will be utilizing CANVAS and expected to interact with its contents regularly. Find the link at [canvas.njit.edu](https://canvas.njit.edu)

**Keep in mind that CANVAS and regular group emails sent by me will both complement, supplement and, at times, correct the syllabus in terms of timetables, content, and many other details potentially disrupted by this Pandemic.**

## Grade Breakdown

Class Participation/Attendance	15 points
Ongoing writings	20 points
Poetry Journal	15 points
Mid-Term Critical/Creative Project	20 points
Poetry Performance/Reading	10 points
End-of-Semester Poetry Portfolio	20 points

Total Points 100 points

(Do note: the Spirit of Poetry is largely allergic to points, grades, calculated heresies of the conventional world >>>>>>>>>>>> but there are institutionalized practices to be undertaken and policies to be upheld, so there you go and here We g(l)o(w)!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!